Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

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60
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EPA-01 NSF-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 IO-13 (ISO) W
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R 251605Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13439

DEPT PASS EPA FOR WILLIAM BROWN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TPHY, PINT, UR
SUBJ: RUMORS OF TADZHIK VILLAGE EVACUATIONS IN ANTICIPATION
OF A LARGE EARTHQUAKE NEAR GARM

1. DURING SCICOUN'S VISIT TO GARM (SEPTEL) DR. B. TUCKER,
AMERICAN EXCHANGE SCIENTIST WORKING IN GARM, STATED THAT HE
HEARD PERSISTENTS RUMOURS FROM SOVIET SCIENTISTS AT THE BASE
THAT SOUTH OF GARM SEVERAL KISHLAKS (TADZHIK VILLAGES) HAVE
BEEN ORDERED EVACUATED AND THAT THEIR POPULATIION IS LIVING
IN TENTS. AREA SOUTHEAST OF GARM APPEARS TO BE CLOSED TO
VISITORS AND ABOVE RUMOR CANNOT BE CHECKED.

2. SPECULATION PASSED BY TUCKER IS THAT IF LARGE EARTHQUAKE
SHOULD OCCUR WHILE TADZHIKS LIVE IN THIS WOULD BE USED AS
PROOF THAT LARGE EARTHQUAKE HAD BEEN PREDICTED. TUCKER HIMSELF
IS SCEPTICAL OF SOVIET ABILITY TO PREDICT LARGE EARTHQUAKE
ON BASIS OF DATA THEY HAVE THUS FOR COLLECTED.

3. COMMENT. LAST LARGE EARTHQUAKE OCCURRED NEAR GARM 27
YEARS AGO. LAST LONG PREVIOUS PAUSE BETWEEN LARGE EARTHQUAKES
LASTED 29 YEARS, FROM 1859, TO 1924. OTHERWISE AVERAGE SPACING
OF LARGE EARTHQUAKES HAS BEEN AT FIVE-YEAR INTERVALS.
IT IS THEREFORE UNDERSTANDABEL THAT IN THIS REGION OF EARTHQUAKE
HYPERACTIVITY THERE ARE GROWING EXPECTATIONS OF AN
IMMINENT LARGE EARTHQUAKE. END COMMENT.
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STOESSEL

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